MARCH 23, 1956 FOR THE PRESS NO. 158

79239

CAUTION - FUTURE RELEASE

FOR RELEASE AT 9:00 P.M., E.S.T., FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1956. NOT TO BE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED, QUOTED FROM OR USED IN ANY WAY.

NOTE TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING PACIFIC NUCLEAR TESTS

Following is the text of the note, concerning the forthcoming nuclear tests in the Pacific, which was delivered by the Department of State to the Embassy of Japan on March 19, 1956:

"The Acting Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan and has the honor to refer to the note from the Embassy of Japan dated January 25, 1956, requesting assurances of compensation in the event of damage or economic loss arising from the forthcoming nuclear tests in the Pacific, and the Embassy's note dated February 14, 1956, transmitting the resolutions of the Japanese Diet urging suspension of nuclear tests and expressing the strong wish of the Government of Japan that earnest consideration be given to the realization of the desire of the people of Japan as expressed in these resolutions.

"The United States is second to none in its desire for the safeguarded control and reduction of armaments, including nuclear weapons. President Eisenhower has led the way toward world cooperation to achieve this goal. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on December 8, 1953, he stated,

> "'...the United States pledges before you -- and therefore before the world -- its determination to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma -- to devote its entire heart and mind to find the way by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life.'

"At the Summit Conference in Geneva last summer, President Eisenhower proposed an exchange of blueprints and a system of aerial inspection. Most recently, in his letter of March 1, 1956, to Premier Bulganin of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the President stated that:

ALOO

> "'In my judgment, our efforts must be directed especially to bringing under control the nuclear threat. As an important step for this purpose and assuming the satisfactory operation of our air and ground inspection system, the United States would be prepared to work out, with other nations, suitable and safeguarded arrangements so that future production of fissionable materials anywhere in the world would no longer be used to increase the stockpiles of explosive weapons. With this could be combined my proposal of December 8, 1953, to begin new

-more-

AEC #6 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY Exhibit AL00
Location
Collection Oper. Reviewing
Folder PPG 1956

and continue to make joint contributions from existing stockpiles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic agency. These measures, if carried out adequately, would reverse the present trend toward a constant increase in nuclear weapons overhanging the world. My ultimate hope is that all production of fissionable materials anywhere in the world will be devoted exclusively to peaceful purposes.

"The United States recognizes and strongly sympathizes with the humane motivations which inspired the resolutions of the Japanese Diet, but is constrained to point out that the problem of suspending nuclear weapons tests cannot be treated separately from the establishment of a safeguarded and controlled disarmament program.

"The United States Government is convinced that the proposed nuclear tests are vital to its own defense and the defense of the free world because the possession and competence in the use of nuclear weapons by leading nations of the free world are the chief deterrent to aggression and to war. International agreement to abandon tests without effective safeguards against the clandestine development of new weapons would involve a reliance by the United States upon the good intentions of certain nations not justified by the record of their actions in the past.

"The United States Government is convinced that no world-wide health hazard exists from the past or planned tests. In this connection the United States proposed a resolution unanimously adopted by the United Nations Tenth General Assembly establishing a scientific committee on radiation, of which Japan is a member, to facilitate pooling and distribution of all available scientific data on the effects of radiation upon man and his environment. During the forthcoming tests the United States will make every effort to eliminate any danger and to minimize any inconvenience to maritime commerce and fishing.

"It cannot be regarded as established on the basis of present information that substantial economic losses will result from the establishment of the danger area. Military exercises are a traditional use of the high seas, and the Government of the United States considers that inconvenience for other traditional uses which may result therefrom is not compensable as a matter of right.

"In view of precautions which will attend the tests and the widespread dissemination of information with respect to maximum permissible levels of radiation the United States Government anticipates no economic losses from radioactive contamination of marine life.

"The

ALOO

122

"The United States Government is prepared, however, in the interest of the fullest understanding and cooperation between the two countries:

1. To examine with the Japanese Government the consequences for Japanese maritime activities resulting from establishment of the danger area, to which end consultations have already begun;

2. To make its experts available for any further consultations which the Japanese Government may desire upon radiation standards and maximum permissible levels of radiation, and to consider arrangements for maximum feasible exchange of information on the effects of radiation on marine life; and

3. If after the test series has ended, any evidence is officially presented that substantial economic losses for Japan or Japanese nationals have been incurred as a result of establishment of the danger area and the tests, to give further consideration to the question of compensation in the light of any such evidence.

"In conclusion the Acting Secretary wishes to give the assurance that the United States continues only such tests as are essential to the strength of the free world defense and security. It has sought and will continue to seek with renewed efforts a system for a safe-guarded and controlled disarmament program which ultimately may lead to the type of action envisaged by the resolutions of the Japanese Diet."

ALDO

* * *

Sents--FD, Wash., D. C.

123